

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for manufacturing resource planning (MRP), comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting a processor definition, wherein the processor definition comprises a transfer map, wherein the transfer map indicates locations of values for one or more fields in a MRP document or in a database record in a MRP parts catalog;

(b) creating a plurality of maps from the transfer map;

(c) providing source data; and

(d) creating the MRP document or the database record by processing the source data according to the plurality of maps.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the processor definition further comprises: MRP items, wherein the MRP items reflect the source data with edits specific to a configuration of the processor definition.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the processor definition further comprises: defaults and settings, wherein the defaults and settings store various values relevant to a configuration of the processor definition.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the processor definition further comprises:

a processor type, wherein the processor type reflects how the MRP documents or the database record is to be produced by the processor definition.

5 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the MRP document comprises a purchase order.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the MRP document comprises a request for quotation.

10 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the creating step (b) comprises:
(b1) creating the plurality of maps dynamically from the transfer map before processing of the source data.

15 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of maps comprises:
a required map, wherein the required map includes minimum required fields needed to complete a process defined by the processor definition.

20 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of maps comprises:
a primary map, wherein the primary map stores non-required field names and locations for the non-required field names from the transfer map.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of maps comprises:

an active map, wherein the active map is a concatenation of a required map and a primary map, wherein the active map is used for processing lines in the MRP document.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of maps comprises:

5 a default map, wherein the default map stores default fields in the MRP document or the database record and values for the default fields.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of maps comprises:

10 a column map, wherein the column map stores field names and column values from the transfer map.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of maps comprises:

15 a MRP item map, wherein the MRP item map stores a value for a key MRP item and values for MRP items.

14. A system, comprising:

source data; and

20 a processor definition, wherein the processor definition comprises a transfer map, wherein the transfer map indicates locations of values for one or more fields in a MRP document or a database record in a MRP parts catalog.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the processor definition further comprises:

MRP items, wherein the MRP items reflect the source data with edits specific to a configuration of the processor definition.

16. The system of claim 14, wherein the processor definition further comprises:
5 defaults and settings, wherein the defaults and settings store various values relevant to a configuration of the processor definition.

17. The system of claim 14, wherein the processor definition further comprises:
10 a processor type, wherein the processor type reflects how the MRP documents is to be produced by the processor definition.

18. The system of claim 14, wherein a plurality of maps are created dynamically
from the transfer map before processing of the source data.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the plurality of maps comprises:
15 a required map, wherein the required map includes minimum required fields needed to complete a process defined by the processor definition.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein the plurality of maps comprises:
20 a primary map, wherein the primary map stores non-required field names and locations for the non-required field names from the transfer map.

21. The system of claim 18, wherein the plurality of maps comprises:

an active map, wherein the active map is a concatenation of a required map and a primary map, wherein the active map is used for processing lines in the MRP document.

22. The system of claim 18, wherein the plurality of maps comprises:

a default map, wherein the default map stores default fields in the MRP document and values for the default fields.

23. The system of claim 18, wherein the plurality of maps comprises:

a column map, wherein the column map stores field names and column values from the transfer map.

24. The system of claim 18, wherein the plurality of maps comprises:

a MRP item map, wherein the MRP item map stores a value for a key MRP item and values for MRP items.

25. The system of claim 14, wherein the MRP document comprises a purchase order.

26. The system of claim 14, wherein the MRP document comprises a request for quotation.

27. A computer readable medium with program instructions for MRP,
comprising the instructions for:

- (a) selecting a processor definition, wherein the processor definition comprises a transfer map, wherein the transfer map indicates locations of values for one or more fields in a MRP document or in a database record of a MRP parts catalog;
- (b) creating a plurality of maps from the transfer map;
- (c) providing source data; and
- (d) creating the MRP document or the database record by processing the source data according to the plurality of maps.

28. The medium of claim 27, wherein the processor definition further comprises:
MRP items, wherein the MRP items reflect the source data with edits specific to a configuration of the processor definition.

29. The medium of claim 27, wherein the processor definition further comprises:
defaults and settings, wherein the defaults and settings store various values relevant to a configuration of the processor definition.

30. The medium of claim 27, wherein the processor definition further comprises:
a processor type, wherein the processor type reflects how the MRP documents is to be produced by the processor definition.

31. The medium of claim 27, wherein the MRP document comprises a purchase order.

32. The medium of claim 27, wherein the MRP document comprises a request for quotation.

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33. The medium of claim 27, wherein the creating instruction (b) comprises instructions for:

(b1) creating the plurality of maps dynamically from the transfer map before processing of the source data.

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34. The medium of claim 27, wherein the plurality of maps comprises:

a required map, wherein the required map includes minimum required fields needed to complete a process defined by the processor definition.

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35. The medium of claim 27, wherein the plurality of maps comprises:

a primary map, wherein the primary map stores non-required field names and locations for the non-required field names from the transfer map.

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36. The medium of claim 27, wherein the plurality of maps comprises:

an active map, wherein the active map is a concatenation of a required map and a primary map, wherein the active map is used for processing lines in the MRP document.

37. The medium of claim 27, wherein the plurality of maps comprises:

a default map, wherein the default map stores default fields in the MRP document or the database record and values for the default fields.

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38. The medium of claim 27, wherein the plurality of maps comprises:

a column map, wherein the column map stores field names and column values from the transfer map.

39. The medium of claim 27, wherein the plurality of maps comprises:

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a MRP item map, wherein the MRP item map stores a value for a key MRP item and values for MRP items.

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